

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a routing apparatus for obtaining routing data conforming to a destination address of a packet that arrives from a line, adding the routing data onto the packet, and switching the packet based upon the routing data to send the packet to a prescribed line. The routing apparatus has a main controller equipped with content addressable memories (CAMs) corresponding to respective ones of line speed. When search key data with an attached line identifier is received from a line card, routing data is generated by the content addressable memory (CAM) corresponding to the line speed and the routing data is sent to the line card. The line card adds routing data of which it has been notified by the main controller onto a packet and then outputs the packet. A switch to which a packet having attached routing data is input from a prescribed line card switches the packet based upon the routing data and sends the packet to another line card.

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